



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913  
PH (517) 373.0793 | FAX (517) 373.5607  
[www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/george/](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/george/)

For Immediate Release  
November 10, 2004

Contact: Sherry Sofia  
517-373-0793

## **Senate passes Kevin's Law package**

**LANSING** – Legislation designed to create an assisted outpatient treatment program was unanimously passed by the Senate today, announced Sen. Tom George, R-Texas Township.

The “Kevin’s Law” package, Senate Bills 683-686, would create an outpatient treatment pathway as an alternative to hospitalization for individuals with severe mental illness. Left untreated, the severely mentally ill often end up homeless or incarcerated.

“I have been working for several years to help prevent tragedies like the one that took place in a Kalamazoo bus station, from happening again,” George said. “This legislation will help bring needed care to the severely mentally ill and will help make our streets safer. I look forward to House consideration of this measure.”

The bipartisan legislation was introduced in response to the 2000 beating death of Kevin Heisinger in the Kalamazoo bus/train station by a person with severe mental illness who was not compliant with treatment. Kevin's Law would safeguard the public by allowing family members and others to intervene to help secure needed treatment for individuals with mental illness before they become a danger to themselves or others.

“Too many people with mental illness have fallen through the cracks and ended up on the streets or in prison,” said Sen. Virg Bernero, D-Lansing. “This legislation is designed to get effective treatment when and where it is most needed to prevent more serious incidents.”

###

**Editor's Note: Comments from Sen. George on Kevin's Law are available for download on the Senate Majority Audiowire at [www.senate.michigan.gov/gop](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop).**